

IUB Customer [IUB]

From: Finnegan, Karen [OCA]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2016 12:42 PM
To: akablademaster2348@gmail.com
Cc: IUB Customer [IUB]
Subject: FW: Black Hills Energy-Docket No. SPU-2015-0039

Dear Mr. Moore,

I have forwarded your concern stated below regarding Black Hills Energy's farm tap over to the Iowa Utilities Board for their review and assistance. Thank you.



Karen Finnegan
Secretary
Office of Consumer Advocate
1375 East Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319-0063
Main: (515) 725-7200 | Direct: (515) 725-7203
E-mail: Karen.Finnegan@oca.iowa.gov

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From: akablade master [mailto:akablademaster2348@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016 11:14 AM
To: IowaOCA <IowaOCA@oca.iowa.gov>
Subject: Black Hills Energy-Docket No. SPU-2015-0039

To Mark R. Schuling, Consumer Advocate. My info- Jeff Moore 3881 Olive Ave. Kensett, IA 50448 Ph. no. 641-420-0080 My Black Hills Energy Account no. Is 5379 1844 50.

Dear sir, I inherited the place in 2014 when the owner passed away. I'll try to keep this short as possible. The previous owner Alice Tostenson, husband died in 1982. I had been helping the Tostenson's for about 8yrs. before LaVons passing. They had no children and took a liking to me. Alice wanted to say on the place but needed help with mowing and snow removal and asked me to move a mobile home out there. Which I did in 1984 and did all the outside work for her for over 30yrs. before her passing. Thats why I know what had taken place there with the gas line. Back to that.

I haven't found the pics. of the new line when it was put in and I'm not positive of the cost. Im thinkin it was around 1998 the farmer renting the field was chisel plowing and caught the gas line. I wasn't involved with the replacement of the line, since I worked at the local cement plant during the day. For some reason \$5800.00 was the amount that Alice told me was the cost to replace the line. If I could find the pics I'm sure they are dated. At the informational meeting at Webster City, 9/20/16, that I went to, there were I believe only 2 BHE customers and 1 guy was a emergency personnel, I think a firemen talked of mapping the lines. As far as the placement of the lines, Im sure most often the lines will be from the marked meter, taking the shortest route to

the farm place, like ours did. Tracy Peterson, V.P. Iowa Gas Operations represented BHE. He explained the situation for the proposal and took the questions. I forgot to say, Peterson gave me his card after the meeting, and that's what his card said he was, V.P. IA gas operations? He forgot-For BHE. Peterson said they were doing this mainly for safety of people working around and on the gas lines. I asked how many farm taps do they service? Peterson said around 1500. I asked of the 1500 taps how many documented injuries or fatalities have they had over the past 5yrs.? Peterson said none that he can recall but beyond 5yrs. he knew of injuries that had happened. Peterson explained how they pressure check a line to check the condition. And that is a service that they periodically do now. I kno they had never checked the old or newest line. I would've had to relate the pilot lites for Alice's Furness, water heater, oven, and clothes dryer and Furness, oven, and water heater in my trailer and in the 30+yrs. I've never had to do such. So much for their periodic leak surveys. See if they have documentation of these leak surveys. Peterson says they pressurize the gas line to 100pds. and watch the gauge to see if the pressure drops and how fast. I said my newer gas line would leak with that much pressure! I asked why do they use 100pds. when the gas press.isnt over 15 or 16pds.? Peterson that is standard and most lines are 12 to 14pds. and some are 30pds. Nothing will past the 100pds. unless they want it to. Also lm sure the owners know by the meter read if they have a leak or a bad line somewhere. Most gas line owners, after reading the meter a couple of yrs. will know approximately how must gas they use or if they have a leak and a bad line somewhere. Peterson said with BHE taking ownership of the line it would be less burden on the customer. Peterson mentioned the surcharge on all their customers should be around \$1.00 a month for 3yrs. I asked Peterson WHY I OR ANY OTHER CUSTOMER

OF BHE pay for a replacement farm tap line that will be OWNED BY BHE? Peterson couldn't answer!!!!!!!!!!

With 100pd. leak check most older lines WILL NOT PASS!!!!!!

So if BHE is allowed to take over the farm tap lines, and the farmer had the line replaced say 10yrs. ago and pd. say \$10,000.00. How are they going to be COMPANSATED for their cost and then be forced to give ownership to BHE.

When new standards are brought into law. People are GRANDFATHERED IN INSTEAD OF BEING FORCED TO GIVEUP OWNERSHIP!!!

When BHE, if allowed, does a 100pd. pressure check and they blow the line apart, whos responsible for repairing the farm tap line so the owner has heat, will be able to cook food, and take a warm shower. Are they going to have the gas back on soon? Or are the line owners going to be forced to repair the line,if they can find the leak? And that could take weeks to line up someone to replace the line. Also if it runs threw a field what of the crops?

In order for the farm tap owner not to be forced from their home with no gas.BHE would have to have another line ready to switch to after damaging the owners line with the 100pd. pressure check!!!!

BHE is calling the farm taps a safety situation and thats why Northern Natural Gas contracted the farm taps out to them, so they won't have to deal with the public on a situation they created long ago.

The safety problem is not proven!!!

The farm tap line owners are responsible for their lines now. Why should the BHE customer be brought in to pay for farm tap lines that will be owned by BHE??

If the farm tap owners have a line go bad, they will have to decide to replace or go to LP. Their not going to let a leak get worse.

BHE is trying to gain ownership with new lines and not have to spend a dime. Any company would love to make that deal!!!

And how would customers be COMPANSATED if they had paid for a replacement put in.

Leave ownership as is for now with no documented safety problems.

Don't make the people pay out more for the gas bill. Because most of the people are having a hard time making ends meet NOW!!! Im not very good at putting thoughts into words.

Thanks for bearing with me

Jeff Moore

I hope it comes to you in the right order.